FBI Listed Famed Liberal As Wartime Arrest Target

Dist 11/15/78

CHICAGO (AP)—The late Sen. Paul H. Douglas had been investigated by the FBI and his name put on a list of persons "whose arrest might be considered necessary" in wartime, the Chicago Tribune said yesterday.

The newspaper said in a copyright article that the FBI investigated the Chicago Democrat while he was an alderman in 1941 and also kept files on his political views at least through 1964. He was a senator from Illinois from 1949 through 1966, when he was defeated by Republican Charles H. Percy.

The newspaper said it obtained the FBI's 256-page central file, maintained in Washington, in response to a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act. The central file refers to hundreds of other documents kept by the FBI's Chicago field office.

Douglas, a former University of Chicago professor of economics and a decorated Marine Corps officer in World War II, died at 84 in 1976. He onetime Socialist Party member and wrote a number of books on economics.

Examples of the material in the files cited by the newspaper:

- The Chicago FBI office listed Douglas "among the individuals who were considered as outstanding in communist activities in the Chicago district and were believed to be engaged in espionage activities for the Russian government."
- An informant said Douglas was "particularly active among the Negro population . . . and as such has participated actively in meetings of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

The Tribune said the files shows that when Douglas learned of the investigation, he made a statement to FBI agents that is contained in a report dated Sept. 11, 1941. It said in part: "Subject professes to be unwitting victim of communistic scheme of using communistic figures to disguise their activities. Informant files reflect subject settled all difference with the Communist Party and is currently working with same."

After Douglas became a senator, the Tribune said, each updated dossier stated that there was "no indication that he was ever a member of the CP and that, while he had been associated with numerous communist-front groups, he had often denounced the communists."

PAUL H. DOUGLAS
. . . late senator, Marine hero